

Serial No.: 09/560,518

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On page 24, on line 15 thereof, after "EDAX", insert --(energy dispersive analysis by X-ray)--;

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) A method for depositing a coating substantially composed of the element boron or an isotope of the element boron comprising the steps of:
  - i. selecting [Selecting] a substrate for receiving said coating;
  - ii. selecting [Selecting] an electrically conductive boron-rich feedstock in which the initial ratio of boron to a companion element is 20 or greater for said coating;
  - iii. selecting [Selecting] a [method] process for depositing said coating on said substrate from the group consisting [comprised] of: plasma spray, cathodic arc, mass filtered cathodic arc, sputtering, electric arc, direct electrical heating, electron-induced evaporator, or photon-induced evaporation, and
  - iv. depositing [Depositing] said coating on said substrate.
2. The method of claim 1 in which said electrically conductive boron-rich feedstock is comprised of a compound of boron.

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3. (Amended) The method of claim 2 in which said companion [elements] element of said electrically conductive boron-rich feedstock is one or more selected from the group consisting [comprised] of elements from group 3B of the periodic table[, including the rare earth elements, the actinides, and the lanthanides].

4. (Cancelled) The method of claim 2 in which said companion elements of said electrically conductive boron-rich feedstock is one or more element selected from the group comprised of hydrogen, lithium, carbon, sodium, magnesium, nitrogen, and sulfur.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1 in which said electrically conductive boron-rich feedstock consists of a doped solid solution of said companion [elements] element within boron.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 5 in which said companion elements of said electrically conductive boron-rich feedstock consists of one or more [element] elements selected from the group [comprised] consisting of the transition metals and Group 3B elements[, including the rare earth elements, the actinides, and the lanthanides].
- ~~7. The method of claim 1 in which said substrate is temperature-controlled.~~
8. The method of claim 1 in which said substrate is voltage-controlled.
9. (Amended) A method for depositing a coating substantially composed of the element boron or an isotope of the element boron comprising,
- i. selecting [Selecting] a substrate for receiving said coating;
  - ii. selecting [Selecting] an electrically conductive boron-rich feedstock in which the initial ratio of boron to a companion element is 20 or greater;
  - iii. selecting [Selecting] a [method] process for depositing said coating on said substrate from the group [comprised] consisting of plasma spray, cathodic arc, mass filtered cathodic arc, sputtering, electric arc, direct electrical heating,

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electron-induced evaporation, or photon-induced evaporation;

iv. selecting [Selecting] a carrier gas compatible with said feedstock and said method for depositing said coating;

v. selecting a [Selecting the] composition and pressure of gases in an [the] environment of said substrate, and

vi. depositing [Depositing] said coating on said substrate.

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10. The method of claim 9 in which said electrically conductive boron-rich feedstock consists of a compound of boron.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 10 in which [the] said companion element of said electrically conductive boron-rich feedstock is at least one [or more] element selected from the group [comprised] consisting of elements from group 3B of the periodic table[, including the rare earth elements, the actinides, and the lanthanides].

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12. (Cancelled) The method of claim **10** in which the companion element of said electrically conductive boron-rich feedstock is one or more element selected from the group comprised of hydrogen, lithium, sodium, magnesium, nitrogen, and sulfur.

13. (Amended) The method of claim **9** in which said electrically conductive boron-rich feedstock consists of a doped solid solution of at least one companion [elements] element within boron.

14. (Amended) The method of claim **13** in which said companion elements of said electrically conductive boron-rich feedstock [is] consists of at least one [or more] element selected from the group [comprised] consisting of the transition metals and Group 3B elements[, including the rare earth elements, the actinides, and the lanthanides].

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15. (Amended) The method of claim 9 in which said carrier gas consists of at least [is] one [or more] element selected from the group [comprised] consisting of Group 8 inert gases, nitrogen, oxygen, methane, sulfur hexafluoride, sulfur dioxide, hydrogen, silanes, halogens, and hydrogen halides.

16. (Cancelled) The method of claim 9 in which said gases in the environment of said substrate substantially excludes oxygen or water vapor.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 9 in which said gases in [the] said environment of said substrate comprise a chemically reducing atmosphere.

18. (Amended) The method of claim 9 in which said gases in [the] said environment of said substrate consist of a partial vacuum.

19. The method of claim 9 in which said substrate is temperature-controlled.

20. The method of claim 9 in which said substrate is voltage-controlled.

Please cancel claims 4, 12 and 16, and renumber and re-depend the remaining claims accordingly.